



Amendment
Serial No. 09/875,184
Attorney Docket No. 010493

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A drainage system comprising:

a suction nozzle for sucking and discharging a solution from a vessel;
support means for supporting the suction nozzle for movement toward the vessel; and
suction nozzle moving means including urging means for urging the suction nozzle toward the vessel and a guide, located beneath the urging means, for slidably supporting the suction nozzle,

the suction nozzle moving means being capable of positioning the suction nozzle with the distal end thereof to come in contact with a lowest position of the inner wall surface of the vessel yet without having a sidewall of the suction nozzle to come in contact with the surface of the inner wall of the vessel;

wherein suction is performed while the distal end is in contact with the lowest position of the inner wall surface of the vessel, and

wherein said suction nozzle moving means also includes a collar located beneath the urging means ~~which is in contact with said guide when said suction nozzle is in an initial position.~~

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A drainage system comprising:

a suction nozzle for sucking and discharging a solution from a vessel;
a magnet; and

Amendment
Serial No. 09/875,184
Attorney Docket No. 010493

magnet moving means for supporting the magnet so as to be movable toward and away from the vessel, said magnet moving means including two support plates with a spring interposed there between,

the magnet being capable of holding magnetic particles in a given position in the vessel by being moved toward the vessel by the magnet moving means.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A drainage system comprising:

- a buffer tank;
- a plurality of suction nozzles for sucking and discharging a solution from a vessel;
- a branch manifold connected to the suction nozzles through pipes;
- a suction pump connected to the buffer tank for suction of the solution from the suction nozzles through the branch manifold;

liquid conveying means for feeding a liquid through said branch manifold and into the pipes located between the branch manifold and each of the suction nozzles, thereby filling the pipes with the liquid; and

a switching valve connected to the buffer tank, the liquid conveying means and the branch manifold,

the suction pump being capable of operating so that the solution in the vessel can be sucked out simultaneously from each of the suction nozzles then through the branch manifold;

wherein the buffer tank has two ports, a first port is connected to the suction pump and a second port is connected to the switching valve,

wherein said switching valve allows for said liquid filling of said pipes via said liquid conveying means when in a first position and suction from said vessel when in a second position,
and

wherein said buffer tank is disposed between said branch manifold and said suction pump.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A drainage system comprising:

a plurality of suction nozzles for sucking and discharging a solution from a vessel;
support means for supporting the suction nozzles for movement toward the vessel;
suction nozzle moving means including urging means for urging the suction nozzles toward the vessel and a guide, located beneath the urging means, for slidably supporting the plurality of suction nozzles;

a magnet;

magnet moving means for supporting the magnet so as to be movable toward and away from the vessel;

a branch manifold connected to the suction nozzles through pipes;

a suction pump for suction from the suction nozzles through the branch manifold; and

liquid conveying means for feeding a liquid through said branch manifold and into the pipes located between the branch manifold and each of the suction nozzles, thereby filling the pipes with the liquid; and

Amendment
Serial No. 09/875,184
Attorney Docket No. 010493

a switching valve connected to each of said manifold, liquid conveying means and suction pump,

the suction nozzle moving means being capable of positioning the suction nozzle with the distal end thereof in contact with the inner wall surface of the vessel,

the magnet being capable of holding magnetic particles in a given position in the vessel by being moved toward the vessel by the magnet moving means, and

the suction pump being capable of operating so that the solution in the vessel can be sucked out simultaneously from each of the suction nozzles then through the branch manifold, and

wherein said switching means allows said liquid filling of said pipes via said liquid conveying means when in a first position and suction from said vessel when in a second position, and

wherein said suction nozzle moving means also includes a collar located beneath the urging means ~~which is in contact with said guide when said suction nozzle is in an initial position.~~